

HAMILTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA  
(317) 776-8500

DIRECTIONS FOR TREATING DRINKING WATER IN SMALL QUANTITIES

1. In emergencies, or as a temporary measure, water from contaminated or suspect sources can be disinfected by either chlorination or boiling.
  - a. Secure Safe Drinking Water from an Approved or Emergency Source if Possible. If not possible, Treat Water Before Drinking.
  - b. If Water Is Not Clear, It Should Not Be Used. If a less turbid water source cannot be located, allow the water to stand in a container until the sediment settles, then pour off and keep the clear water.
2. Chlorination – Add three (3) drops of a liquid chlorine laundry bleach (such as Clorox, Purex, Shur Fine, Snowy, Scot Lad, and many others) to one gallon of water and mix. Chlorine bleaches are inexpensive and can be secured from most grocery, discount, or drug stores.
  - a. Wait thirty (30) minutes after adding the chlorine before using the water for drinking or cooking purposes.
  - b. If this treatment does not give the water a taste of chlorine, the above quantities should be doubled. Repeat until it does, and use the total amount required in one dose for future treatments.
  - c. The taste of chlorine is not particularly unpleasant and it will be evidence that the water is safe to drink.
3. Boiling – The water may also be purified by boiling. In this method, all that is required is to bring the water to a full boil and boil for at least five (5) minutes. Then cool. Aeration of the boiled water by pouring it through the air from one clean container to another, or mixing rapidly with a clean utensil, will eliminate the flat taste caused by boiling.
4. One of the above treatments should be continued until water of unquestioned quality can be secured. Remember that the safety of water cannot be judged by color, odor, or taste. The organisms that cause water-borne disease cannot be seen.
5. Contact you local health department or the Division of Sanitary Engineering for assistance or advice.

